

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Quarterly news
and updates from
the Idaho
Department of
Health and Welfare



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Treatment and Transitions Grant to Fund Enhanced Safe and Sober Houses

*By Mindy Oldenkamp
Program Specialist*

The Treatment and Transitions grant, also known as TNT, provides behavioral health and housing services to Idahoans who may be at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness. The grant, awarded

by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides \$1 million a year for five years, and has allowed the Division of Behavioral Health to develop a series of Enhanced Safe and Sober Houses (ESSH) in an effort to effectively integrate essential recovery support and behavioral health services for co-occurring individuals.

In addition to providing safe and sober housing and vital behavioral health services, individuals



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what you want to see in
this newsletter.

being served through TNT will work directly with a Recovery Coach, receive assistance with applying for potential SSI/SSDI benefits, and be connected with vouchers for permanent housing upon the completion of their time in the ESSH. These services will all be targeted toward the goal of permanent, sustainable housing for each individual. Length of stay in a TNT is six months.

A total of three TNT Houses will be opened across the state, with two already open, accepting referrals, and nearing capacity. Stewards of Recovery, in Idaho Falls, provides all male housing and services for up to eight men. SHIP, located in Boise, is a female facility providing services and housing for up to ten women. A third house will be opened in northern Idaho, and work is currently being done to identify a

provider in the area. Initial referrals to a TNT program are earmarked for those patients transitioning from one of our state psychiatric hospitals, with vacancies remaining being made available to individuals as recommended by Regional Adult Mental Health staff. If you have questions, please contact [Mindy Oldenkamp](#).

Setting a Transformation Target for Healthcare in Idaho

*By Casey Moyer
Program Manager*

Achieving the triple aim of improved health outcomes, improved health of communities, and a decrease in the cost of healthcare is no easy feat. All the elements and initiatives of the Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) were carefully crafted to help build a foundation for transformation in Idaho. With support from the Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives (OHPI), the Healthcare Transformation Council of Idaho (HTCI) is continuing this endeavor and has been meeting monthly to identify strategies and targets to help Idaho continue its transformation. Healthcare finance has been selected as the first driver with a success metric of increasing value-based payments from the current level of 29% to 50% of all payments by 2023; this includes all payments

			
CATEGORY 1 FEE FOR SERVICE - NO LINK TO QUALITY & VALUE	CATEGORY 2 FEE FOR SERVICE - LINK TO QUALITY & VALUE	CATEGORY 3 APMS BUILT ON FEE-FOR-SERVICE ARCHITECTURE	CATEGORY 4 POPULATION - BASED PAYMENT
	A Foundational Payments for Infrastructure & Operations (e.g., care coordination fees and payments for HIT investments)	A APMs with Shared Savings (e.g., shared savings with upside risk only)	A Condition-Specific Population-Based Payment (e.g., per member per month payments, payments for specialty services, such as oncology or mental health)
	B Pay for Reporting (e.g., bonuses for reporting data or penalties for not reporting data)	B APMs with Shared Savings and Downside Risk (e.g., episode-based payments for procedures and comprehensive payments with upside and downside risk)	B Comprehensive Population-Based Payment (e.g., global budgets or full/percent of premium payments)
	C Pay-for-Performance (e.g., bonuses for quality performance)		C Integrated Finance & Delivery Systems (e.g., global budgets or full/percent of premium payments in integrated systems)
		3N Risk Based Payments NOT Linked to Quality	4N Capitated Payments NOT Linked to Quality

2-4 of the LAN framework are considered value-based because they have a link to patient care, quality and outcomes. With an ambitious target set, HTCI is meeting and evaluating specific initiatives that will help support progress toward achieving the value-based payment target of 50%. A newly constituted

for healthcare (e.g. public, private, & self-funded). The definition of value-based payments has been established by the Learning in Action Network (LAN) (hcp-lan.org) and is organized into a framework with fee-for-service payments being at Level 1 and full capitation payments being at Level 4. Payments made in levels

multi-payer and provider workgroup is in the process of forming to help advise and implement these changes. HTCI and its workgroups meetings are open to the public; information on times and locations can be found [here](#).

Medicaid Expansion for Idaho

By Cindy Day

Program Manager

Medicaid expansion, also known as Medicaid for Adults, is in development by Department of Health and Welfare divisions including Self Reliance, Medicaid and Behavioral Health.

- Enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2019.

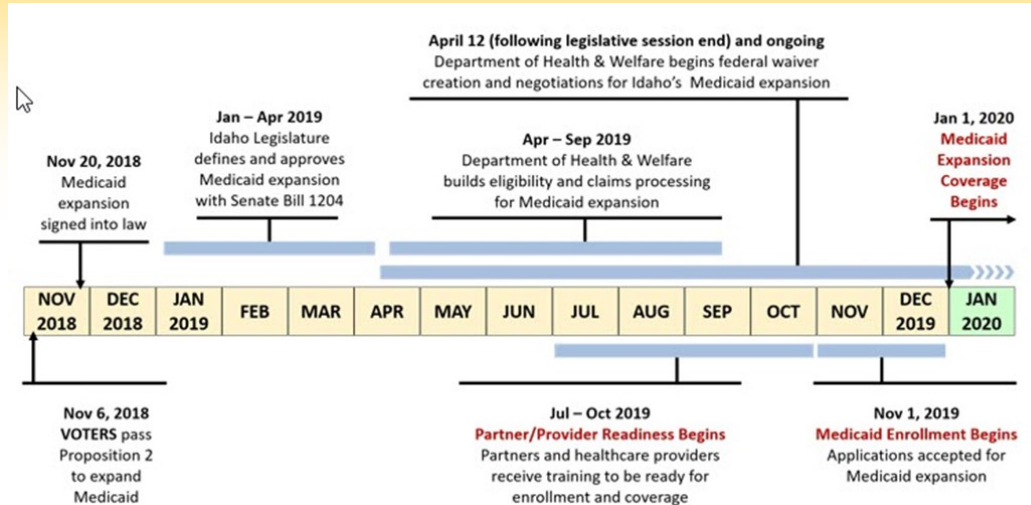
- Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2020.

In November 2018, voters passed a proposition to expand Medicaid in Idaho. The goal of Medicaid expansion is to provide Medicaid coverage to individuals with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Department of Health and Welfare is building the communication, training, processes, benefits, capacity and automation to implement Medicaid expansion. A number of Medicaid expansion resources have already been developed including the [Medicaid expansion Website](#) which includes eligibility requirements, timeline and customer and provider FAQs.

Additional resources include:

Idalink at <https://idalink.idaho.gov/>

- Idalink is an online portal for managing healthcare assistance, food assistance, and other programs in Idaho.
- With idalink, customers can see the status of their current benefits and any applications they've submitted.



Timeline for Medicaid Expansion. More information on Idaho Medicaid expansion is included here: <https://medicaidexpansion.idaho.gov/>

- Idalink gives customers the ability to apply for health coverage assistance and submit verifications entirely online. They can also complete a re-evaluation for Food Stamps and view other benefits their family is currently receiving.

Live Better Idaho (LBI) at www.livebetteridaho.gov

- The Live Better Idaho (LBI) website helps Idahoans seek, find, and access services from providers who offer those services.
- LBI's goal is for visitors to quickly and easily find information they need about a service and learn how to receive that service, within three mouse clicks.
- Customers will be able to learn about various health care services available to them and can select a primary care

provider through the Healthy Connections page.

Medicaid's Healthy Connections Primary Care program

- This program connects customers receiving Medicaid with approved providers.
- Customers will use Healthy Connections, via LBI, to select a primary care provider.
- The goals of Healthy Connections is to address a customer's health care needs, improve the quality of their healthcare and overall well-being, and ensure that customers can get appointments with a health care team quickly.

Join Us for Region 10 Opioid Summit

By Rachel Gillett

Program Specialist

Idaho has collaborated with its fellow region 10 states (Oregon, Washington, and Alaska) to establish the first ever Region 10 Opioid Summit.

The Region 10 Opioid Summit is an opportunity for professionals from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to meet and explore ways to address the opioid crisis. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend multiple breakout sessions focused around prevention, special interventions, treatment and recovery and plenary sessions. Idaho presenters include Scott Jones from



The Phoenix, Dr. Reid Lofgren of North Canyon Medical Center and Jason Coombs from Brick House Recovery.

The Region 10 Opioid Summit will take place in Vancouver, Washington August 7 – 8, 2019 at the Vancouver Hilton.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health is excited to support Idaho's opioid use disorder prevention,

treatment, and recovery support service providers and Idaho tribal members attendance at the summit. The division provided over 80 travel sponsorships. .

For more information about the Region 10 Opioid Summit please visit the [website](#) or contact Rachel Gillett with the Division of Behavioral Health, Rachel.Gillett@dhw.idaho.gov . We hope to see you there!

Transformation Transfer Initiative Grant to Provide Bridge in Services

By Seth Schreiber

Program Manager

The Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) Grant is a \$150,000 grant that was awarded to the division to procure a psychiatric bed registry portal and train users. Currently, Idaho does not have a tracking mechanism to identify bed capacity at both publicly and privately funded hospitals. This grant will allow the division to provide individuals who require inpatient care the resource to know where to go to receive that care. The use of a portal system across community mental health agencies, crisis centers, jails, community hospitals, and state hospitals may also

decrease the number of Idahoans becoming incarcerated when their need is psychiatric care. This project will take approximately 18-24 months to be fully integrated and we are thrilled to receive this grant to ensure those most in need have access to psychiatric inpatient beds and can swiftly transition from one level of care to another.

During our research of different potential software platforms, we learned that the Division of Public Health currently utilizes a statewide hospital bed registry for bed availability should a Mass Casualty Incident occur. Behavioral Health and Public Health have partnered up to share the use of that hospital bed

registry, Juvare (EMResource). Behavioral Health will create and maintain a specific view within Juvare to show Psychiatric Hospital beds and Crisis Centers seats availability, calling it the Idaho Psychiatric Bed and Seat Registry. The division is currently assembling a list of potential community stakeholders to invite to learn more about the TTI Grant, and the use of the registry through the Juvare platform.

Partnership with SHIP and IHDE for Healthcare Integration

*By Alacia Handy
Program Specialist*

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) has been collaborating closely with the Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) and the Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) on the development and implementation of an interface between the DBH electronic health record system (WITS) and the IHDE clinical portal. The purpose of the interface is to enhance treatment and service coordination between DBH Regional Behavioral Health Offices and medical providers/hospitals/ERs that participate in IHDE through integration of healthcare and DBH behavioral health records. IHDE is a secure, statewide, internet-based health information sharing system that enables healthcare providers who participate to have quick and secure access to important health information from other providers who participate in IHDE. This ability to share can increase accurate and appropriate healthcare for patients because close collaboration between

specialty behavioral health and primary care is critical to ensure that people receive clinically appropriate services.

Beginning September 3, certain DBH client data will be transmitted from WITS to the IHDE clinical portal.

Under this new interface:

- Participating providers can have a more complete picture of their patients' health records, which can lead to better patient care and outcomes.
- Providers will be able to quickly see what lab tests have been ordered for a patient, what medications a patient is taking, as well as a patient's medical history. This can decrease the ordering of duplicate services and the prescribing of medications that may interfere with a patient's current medication, especially if the patient is in a crisis situation and unable to speak or communicate.
- Only healthcare providers who are participants in IHDE will have access to the information

transmitted from WITS to the IHDE clinical portal.

- DBH clients may opt out of having their data transmitted from WITS to IHDE if they wish. Likewise, if they change their mind, they may opt back in at any time.
- Patient privacy is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as through policies and procedures enacted by every participating provider.

As the department continues to practice caring, competent, and convenient customer service, it is our belief that using the IHDE will improve the timeliness of our service delivery and increase positive healthcare outcomes for those we serve. DBH clients will receive information in the mail prior to the September 3rd implementation, and may contact their Regional Behavioral Health Office with questions. For more information about the IHDE, please visit www.idahohde.org.

Ensuring a Seamless Transition to Adult Medicaid

*By Rosie Andueza
Program Manager*

The majority of clients currently receiving SUD treatment services through BPA Health will be eligible for Medicaid in January. Once receiving Medicaid, these individuals will no longer be able to receive, or

continue to receive, SUD treatment services funded through BPA Health. In order to ensure a seamless transition for those individuals currently receiving BPA Health-funded services, DBH encourages all SUD treatment providers currently enrolled in the BPA Health network

to enroll in the Optum network if they haven't already. This action will ensure that clients' care will not be disrupted as they transition to Medicaid. Don't delay, please call Optum today!

Ongoing Changes for Suicide Prevention Program

By Denise Jensen
Program Manager

The Suicide Prevention Program has seen many changes over the past few months, including losing all our staff who have moved on to exciting new adventures.

We are taking this opportunity to thoughtfully re-organize and realign our work with the new Suicide Prevention Plan. We anticipate posting the program manager position this month and then will work to fill the other positions after that. If you would like to see the work that will be accomplished within the 2017-2023 Suicide Prevention Plan, as well as the Action Plan that accompanies it, please go to our website, spp.dhw.idaho.gov; both documents are located on the right-hand side of the page.

During this transition, we are working hard to maintain communication

across partnering agencies. Please be aware we are not able to continue delivering gatekeeper trainings. To ensure this work continues, we are collaborating with our community partners, who are also experts in suicide prevention, to develop a statewide training network which will continue this important work. If you have requested a training and have not received a confirmation of it, please know we will be touching bases with you shortly. Gatekeeper trainings help community members better understand suicide, provide skills on how to ask someone if they are having thoughts of suicide, and how



to connect to the next step if individuals are suicidal. If you have any questions or concerns about the program, please contact Denise Jensen at denise.jensen@dhw.idaho.gov.

Opioid Strategic Plan Annual Meeting and Governor's Executive Order

By Shaina Cales
Office of Drug Policy

The Office of Drug Policy (ODP) held its annual Opioid Overdose and Misuse Strategic Plan update meeting on May 29, 2018, in Boise. The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan is coordinated by ODP and funded by IDHW through a grant from the CDC. The strategic plan's vision is, "A safe

and healthy Idaho, free from opioid misuse and untreated opioid use disorders."

Having just completed year two of the plan, 69 stakeholders from across Idaho came together to review progress on the plan's goals and update strategies and action plans for year three of implementation. An updated strategic plan will

be published in the coming months and made available on ODP's website.

In a related effort, Governor Brad Little signed an executive order June 13, 2019, aimed at combatting opioid and substance use and misuse in Idaho. Melinda Smyser, administrator of ODP, will chair an advisory group established by the

executive order. The group will research, evaluate, and provide the Governor recommendations on specific opioid-related topics.

The advisory group will hold its initial meeting August 15, 2019 at 8:30 A.M. Mountain Time in the JR Williams Building, West Conference Room (700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83703).

Meetings are open to the public.

[Click here](#) for additional details, including a copy of the Executive Order and list of advisory group members.



Governor Brad Little signs Executive Order No. 2019-09 , aimed at combatting opioid and substance use and misuse in Idaho.

Communimetrics: Moving Beyond the Vacuum

By Shane Duty

Program Supervisor

The operation of Communimetrics through the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) promotes the assessment of the child beyond the vacuum of therapy in a manner to be shared with and understood by those who may impact the child the most.

An individual's Behavioral Health is greatly influenced by their surrounding environment. For instance, the change in scenery from cubicle, lit only by the sterile light of florescent bulbs above, to a park bench brightened by the light of the sun and soothed by the rhythm of windblown trees can be immense. Despite the vast impact of surroundings, we have historically,

even recently, assessed individuals within the environment of the practitioner's office with the picturesque Freudian couch. Not only this, but we proceeded to type said assessment in a language foreign to all but those who write them.

An assessment is a method of communicating an individual's progress to health. If we write an assessment only for an audience of professionals, we eliminate the strongest potential influencers on an individual's life. And we discount the effects of the environment and those who may offer the most support. This practice, perhaps, has its greatest effects on children. Children, for better or worse, are more bound to their environment

than many adults. Not only this, but they are often reliant on the adult to tell their story. The necessity to capture a broader understanding of the child and maintain the ability to communicate with a team with varying understanding of mental health is essential.

Within Communimetrics, Dr. Lyons has demonstrated a method of accurately and reliably capturing the needs of an individual yet improving the effectiveness of how such information is communicated.

Through partnering with Dr. Lyons and the Praed Foundation, Idaho is making the effort to change the status quo of behavioral health assessments, specifically for children.

BPA Health Managing Respite Care Voucher Program

By BPA Health

BPA Health began managing the division's Respite Care Voucher Program in May of 2019. The Idaho Respite Care Voucher Program provides financial assistance for respite care to caregivers of youths with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). This allows the caregiver the opportunity to reimburse for services provided by respite care providers who are a part of the youth's "natural support system," such as a relative or family friend. The purpose of the Idaho Respite Care

Voucher Program is intended to help caregivers decompress or tend to important matters with the peace of mind that their child is being cared for by a provider that the child is familiar with. As such, voucher respite care providers are individuals selected by the family who are known to the family, are independent from a provider agency with services being reserved to respite needs only.

Caregivers may apply for a Respite Care Voucher on the <https://www.bpahealth.com/>

[respitecareidaho/](https://www.bpahealth.com/respitecareidaho/) website. To qualify for a voucher, caregivers must be sure they have a Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment with CANS and a PCP/treatment plan identifying respite. Once a completed application is received, BPA Health will issue a voucher in the amount of \$600 that is valid for up to six months. Please visit our website at <https://www.bpahealth.com/respitecareidaho/> for more information about the program and eligibility requirements.

New Optum Idaho Services Now Available

By Optum Idaho

Optum Idaho implemented Targeted Care Coordination (TCC) as a billable service effective June 30, 2019. Providers statewide received training on the TCC service including facilitation of the Child and Family Team, Person Centered Service Plan development, provider requirements, etc. On-demand trainings will be available to continue to grow the workforce. In addition, three new services and two new service programs were implemented June 30, 2019.

New Services include:

- **Day Treatment:** a structured program available to child/adolescents exhibiting severe needs that can be addressed and managed in a level of care that is

less intensive than inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, partial hospitalization or residential treatment, but requires a higher level of care than intensive or routine outpatient services.

- **Youth Support:** a service that assists and supports the adolescent in understanding their role in accessing services, becoming informed consumers of services and self-advocacy.
- **Behavior Modification and Consultation:** a service for youth to produce meaningful changes in a behavior(s). This may be provided at any time and in any setting to meet their needs, including home, school, and other locations.

New Service Programs

- **Therapeutic After School and Summer Programs (TASSP)** are offered by community organizations to meet the needs of children in their area. The programs include qualified behavioral health professionals to work with each child on behavioral goals in a recreational or after school setting.
- **Intensive Home and Community Based Services (IHCBS)** are provided to Members who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties and need more intensive services to increase stability across settings and help prevent out-of-home placement.

NOTE: Optum Idaho is Idaho's Medicaid managed care contractor for Behavioral Health services.

Medicaid Expansion Will Transform Behavioral Health System

By Ross Edmunds

Division Administrator

Medicaid expansion will provide Idahoans with serious behavioral health conditions that are below 138% of poverty the opportunity to have comprehensive healthcare coverage, to include behavioral healthcare coverage. The majority of patients served by the Division of Behavioral Health will now qualify for Medicaid under the expansion. This is an exciting opportunity to transform the behavioral health care system, but it requires the Division of Behavioral Health to contribute general funds to the state match. The Division of Behavioral Health will, in total, experience a \$12.8 million reduction in its three budgets. Below is a description of

how those funds will be reduced.

- 1) \$5.4 million from the felony probation and parole budget
- 2) \$2 million from the crisis center budget
- 3) \$2 million from the community hospitalization budget
- 4) \$1 million from the adult mental health base budget
- 5) \$2.4 million from the substance use disorders treatment budget

It is not a simple process to reduce the Division of Behavioral Health budget, but it has been well planned and the department is confident the benefit of Medicaid coverage far outweighs the challenges. Medicaid expansion for adults up to 138% of poverty requires a 10% state match. The typical match for Medicaid is 30% state dollars. Therefore, the

\$12.8 million of State General Funds from the Division of Behavioral Health budget will realize a federal match of \$115.2 million.

The reductions have been planned to minimize the impact to the patients served by the Division of Behavioral Health. The transition of patients from the Division of Behavioral Health to getting services from their Medicaid benefit will take time. The department's No. 1 goal will be to ensure patients do not fall through the cracks in the system. Patients will be tracked individually and will continue to be served by the Division of Behavioral Health until they have made a successful transition.

Coming Soon

Northern ICADD conference October 11-12, 2019

The Northern Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (ICADD) will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Inn October 11 and 12. Continuing Education credits will be available for those who attend. This year's conference theme is "Reaching Out for Recovery". [Conference brochure](#).

Block Grant Application drafts available soon

The application draft for the Community Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant will be available for the public to review and comment on in early August. They will be posted to [this webpage](#), along the right column, for about a month.

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